

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend claims 37, 39, 47, 49, 52 and 54 and cancel without prejudice or admission claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 36, 43-46, 48, 50 and 51 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1.-36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) ~~An ultrasonic motor according to claim 36; wherein~~ An ultrasonic motor, comprising: a movable member disposed to undergo movement in response to a drive force; a substrate having a conductor pattern for conveying a drive signal from a drive circuit; a piezoelectric vibrator for undergoing oscillating movement in response to the drive signal so as to contact the movable member and generate the drive force to drive the movable member; and a pair of support members provided on the substrate and disposed on opposite sides of the piezoelectric vibrator for mechanically fixedly supporting the piezoelectric vibrator only in a region thereof corresponding to a node of vibration of the piezoelectric vibrator, the support members have ~~having~~ an L-shaped form, one leg of each support member is being ~~is being~~ fixedly attached to the substrate, and another leg of each support member is being ~~is being~~ fixedly attached to the

piezoelectric element; wherein transmission of the drive signal from the conductor pattern to electrodes of the piezoelectric vibrator is effected only by the support member so that no conductor wires extend from the substrate to connect the drive circuit and the piezoelectric vibrator.

38. (previously presented) An ultrasonic motor according to claim 37; wherein the one leg of the support members is soldered to the substrate and the other leg is adhered to the piezoelectric element by conductive paste.

39. (currently amended) ~~An ultrasonic motor according to claim 36; wherein~~ An ultrasonic motor, comprising: a movable member disposed to undergo movement in response to a drive force; a substrate having a conductor pattern for conveying a drive signal from a drive circuit; a piezoelectric vibrator for undergoing oscillating movement in response to the drive signal so as to contact the movable member and generate the drive force to drive the movable member; and a pair of support members provided on the substrate and disposed on opposite sides of the piezoelectric vibrator for mechanically fixedly supporting the piezoelectric vibrator only in a region thereof corresponding to a node of vibration of the piezoelectric vibrator, the support members each have having an I-shaped form with upper and lower

portions having a larger width than a middle portion, the lower portion of each support member ~~is~~ being fixedly attached to the substrate, and the upper portion of each support member ~~is~~ being fixedly attached to the piezoelectric element; wherein transmission of the drive signal from the conductor pattern to electrodes of the piezoelectric vibrator is effected only by the support member so that no conductor wires extend from the substrate to connect the drive circuit and the piezoelectric vibrator.

40. (previously presented) An ultrasonic motor according to claim 39; wherein the middle portion of each support member is flexible so that the piezoelectric vibrator is resiliently biased in contact with the movable member.

41. (previously presented) An ultrasonic motor, comprising: a movable member disposed to undergo movement in response to a drive force; a substrate having a conductor pattern for conveying a drive signal from a drive circuit; a piezoelectric vibrator provided on the substrate for undergoing oscillating movement in response to the drive signal so as to contact the movable member and generate the drive force to drive the movable member; and a support member provided on the substrate for mechanically supporting the piezoelectric vibrator on the substrate and transmitting the

drive signal from the conductor pattern to electrodes of the piezoelectric vibrator so that no conductor wires extend from the substrate to connect the drive circuit and the piezoelectric vibrator, the support member having a constriction portion that is thinner than a connection portion connected to the piezoelectric vibrator.

42. (previously presented) An ultrasonic motor, comprising: a movable member disposed to undergo movement in response to a drive force; a substrate having a conductor pattern for conveying a drive signal from a drive circuit; a piezoelectric vibrator provided in a recess provided on the substrate for receiving the piezoelectric vibrator, the piezoelectric vibrator for undergoing oscillating movement in response to the drive signal so as to contact the movable member and generate the drive force to drive the movable member; and a support member provided on the substrate for mechanically supporting the piezoelectric vibrator on the substrate and transmitting the drive signal from the conductor pattern to electrodes of the piezoelectric vibrator so that no conductor wires extend from the substrate to connect the drive circuit and the piezoelectric vibrator; wherein the substrate has a recess portion for receiving the piezoelectric vibrator.

43.-46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) ~~An ultrasonic motor~~  
~~according to claim 44; wherein~~ An ultrasonic motor,  
comprising: a substrate; a piezoelectric vibrator disposed on  
the substrate to undergo vibration in response to a drive  
signal; a support member for supporting the piezoelectric  
vibrator on the substrate, the support member being effective  
to transmit the drive signal to the piezoelectric vibrator and  
the support member has having a relatively thinner  
constriction portion and a relatively thicker connection  
portion, the constriction portion being effective for  
decreasing vibration losses; and a movable member disposed on  
the substrate adjacent the piezoelectric vibrator and driven  
in response to vibration of the piezoelectric vibrator;  
wherein the piezoelectric vibrator comprises one or more  
piezoelectric elements polarized to undergo expansion-and-  
contraction vibration in response to the drive signal and  
laminated to one or more piezoelectric elements polarized to  
undergo flexural vibration in response to the drive signal,  
and the piezoelectric vibrator is disposed so that a side face  
thereof is in contact with the movable member and undergoes  
elliptical movement in response to the drive signal to drive  
the movable member.

48. (canceled)

49. (currently amended) ~~An ultrasonic motor~~  
~~according to claim 48;~~ An ultrasonic motor, comprising: a  
substrate; a piezoelectric vibrator disposed on the substrate  
to undergo vibration in response to a drive signal; a support  
member for supporting the piezoelectric vibrator on the  
substrate, the support member being effective to transmit the  
drive signal to the piezoelectric vibrator; and a movable  
member disposed on the substrate adjacent the piezoelectric  
vibrator and driven in response to vibration of the  
piezoelectric vibrator; wherein the piezoelectric vibrator  
comprises one or more piezoelectric elements polarized to  
undergo expansion-and-contraction vibration in response to the  
drive signal and laminated to one or more piezoelectric  
elements polarized to undergo flexural vibration in response  
to the drive signal, and the piezoelectric vibrator is  
disposed so that a side face thereof is in contact with the  
movable member and undergoes elliptical movement in response  
to the drive signal to drive the movable member; wherein the  
support member comprises part of the substrate; and wherein  
the substrate has a recess portion in which is disposed the  
piezoelectric vibrator.

50. (canceled)

51. (canceled)

52. (currently amended) ~~An ultrasonic motor~~  
~~according to claim 44, wherein the support member comprises~~ An  
ultrasonic motor, comprising: a substrate; a piezoelectric  
vibrator disposed on the substrate to undergo vibration in  
response to a drive signal; a support member comprised of two  
support member pieces disposed on opposite sides of the  
piezoelectric vibrator for supporting the piezoelectric  
vibrator on the substrate, the support member pieces being  
effective to transmit the drive signal to the piezoelectric  
vibrator; and a movable member disposed on the substrate  
adjacent the piezoelectric vibrator and driven in response to  
vibration of the piezoelectric vibrator; wherein the  
piezoelectric vibrator comprises one or more piezoelectric  
elements polarized to undergo expansion-and-contraction  
vibration in response to the drive signal and laminated to one  
or more piezoelectric elements polarized to undergo flexural  
vibration in response to the drive signal, and the  
piezoelectric vibrator is disposed so that a side face thereof  
is in contact with the movable member and undergoes elliptical  
movement in response to the drive signal to drive the movable  
member.

53. (previously presented) An ultrasonic motor according to claim 52; wherein each of the support member pieces has a set of signal lines fixed thereto for transmitting the drive signal to the piezoelectric vibrator.

54. (currently amended) ~~An ultrasonic motor according to claim 44; wherein the support member comprises~~ An ultrasonic motor, comprising: a substrate; a piezoelectric vibrator disposed on the substrate to undergo vibration in response to a drive signal; a pair of support members disposed on opposite sides of the piezoelectric vibrator for supporting the piezoelectric vibrator on the substrate, the support members being effective to transmit the drive signal to the piezoelectric vibrator; and a movable member disposed on the substrate adjacent the piezoelectric vibrator and driven in response to vibration of the piezoelectric vibrator; wherein the piezoelectric vibrator comprises one or more piezoelectric elements polarized to undergo expansion-and-contraction vibration in response to the drive signal and laminated to one or more piezoelectric elements polarized to undergo flexural vibration in response to the drive signal, and the piezoelectric vibrator is disposed so that a side face thereof is in contact with the movable member and undergoes elliptical movement in response to the drive signal to drive the movable member.



55. (previously presented) An ultrasonic motor according to claim 54; wherein the support members have an L-shaped form, one leg of each support member is fixedly attached to the substrate, and another leg of each support member is fixedly attached to the piezoelectric element.

56. (previously presented) An ultrasonic motor according to claim 55; wherein the one leg of the support members is soldered to the substrate and the other leg is adhered to the piezoelectric element by conductive paste.

57. (previously presented) An ultrasonic motor according to claim 54; wherein the support members each have an I-shaped form with upper and lower portions having a larger width than a middle portion, the lower portion of each support member is fixedly attached to the substrate, and the upper portion of each support member is fixedly attached to the piezoelectric element.

58. (previously presented) An ultrasonic motor according to claim 57; wherein the middle portion of each support member is flexible so that the piezoelectric vibrator is resiliently biased in contact with the movable member.